# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2621
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Setting up of Agri Export Zones
Laguri Smt. Sakuntala

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has set up Agri Export Zones (AEZs) in the Keonjhar district of Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken to set up AEZs in the said district of Odisha?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a & b)The Concept of Agri Export Zones (AEZs) was introduced in Exim Policy 2001. 60 AEZs in 20 different states were notified by DGFT from time to time based on the proposals received from respective states. AEZs were notified for five years. In the State of Odisha one AEZ was notified for Ginger and Turmeric in Kandhamal District. No AEZ has been set up in the Keonjhar district of Odisha.

(c) A peer evaluation of the existing AEZs was carried out in 2005 to assess the performance of AEZs. Some of the important findings of the peer evaluation include i) Lack of ownership by Government Authority and their Agencies, ii) Lack of awareness about the scheme and its conceptual framework among stakeholders including State Government field establishments, iii) Lack of project orientation in the conceptual design of AEZ, iv) Lack of coordination/ monitoring system in AEZs, v) Non materialization of adequate public investment from Central and State Governments, vi) indiscreet proliferation of AEZs etc. On the basis of the recommendations of the Peer Group in 2005, it was decided not to consider notification of new AEZs unless there were strong compelling reasons. Accordingly, no proposal for setting up of new AEZ is under consideration.
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